

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An automaton configured to perform a task, the automaton comprising:
2 a communication interface to communicate positional information with one or
3 more anchor points provided within a given environment, the positional information enabling
4 generation of mapping information of the given environment;
5 a motor to provide the automation with mobility;
6 a memory to store the mapping information; and
7 a controller to control the motor to enable the automaton to perform the task in
8 the given environment using a task route that has been generated using the mapping
9 information.

1 2. The automaton of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a sensor to detect an object provided within the given environment.

1 3. The automaton of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to
2 generate the mapping information using the positional information.

1 4. The automaton of claim 1, wherein the communication interface and
2 anchor points are Ultra Wide Band transceivers.

1 5. The automaton of claim 4, wherein the mapping information is
2 generated remotely from the automaton.

1 6. The automaton of claim 1, wherein the automaton is an automatic
2 cleaner.

1 7. The automaton of claim 1, wherein the automaton is configured to
2 perform at least one of the following tasks: sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, mowing, and
3 painting.

1 8. An automated system for performing a task in a given environment, the
2 system comprising:
3 a plurality of anchor points configured to transmit and receive Ultra Wide
4 Band ("UWB") signals, the plurality of anchor points provided within the environment to
5 define a first area wherein the task is to be performed; and
6 an automaton configured to perform the task, the automaton including:

7 a communication interface configured to transmit and receive the
8 UWB signals to and from the anchor points,
9 a controller configured to process the UWB signals and generate
10 mapping information of the environment using the UWB signals,
11 a memory to store the mapping information, and
12 a motor configured to provide the automation with mobility.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the controller is configured to generate
2 a task route for performing the task in the given environment using the mapping information.

1 10. The system of claim 8, wherein the anchor points are provided with
2 unique identification numbers.

1 11. The system of claim 8, wherein the anchor points are used to define a
2 second area within the environment that is excluded from the first area, so that the task is not
3 performed within the second area.

1 12. The system of claim 8, wherein the mapping information includes a
2 task route for performing the task, or positional information on one or more objects provided
3 within the first area, or both.

1 13. A method for performing a task within an environment using an
2 automaton, the method comprising:
3 generating first mapping information of a first area defined within the
4 environment using positional information relating to the first area, where the positional
5 information is obtained by using signals exchanged between the automaton and one or more
6 anchor points provided within the environment; and
7 controlling the automaton to navigate within the first area to perform the task
8 using second mapping information of the first area.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the anchor points are provided within
2 the environment to define the first area.

1 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 determining position of an obstacle encountered within the first area using a
3 communication interface provided in the automaton.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the positional information is derived
2 using the Ultra Wide Band technology, wherein the positional information includes
3 information about the position of the obstacle.

1 17. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 generating a first task route using the first mapping information, the first task
3 route being used by the automaton to navigate within the first area to perform the task.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the second mapping information
2 includes the first task route.

1 19. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
2 updating the first mapping information when a given obstacle is encountered
3 by the automaton while performing the task within the first area; and
4 re-routing the automaton based on the updated first mapping information.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
2 categorizing the given obstacle as a temporary obstacle when the given
3 obstacle is first encountered; and
4 categorizing the given obstacle as a stationary obstacle when the given
5 obstacle is found in the same location while the automaton is performing the task at a later
6 time.

1 21. A method for using an automaton, the method comprising:
2 controlling the automaton to perform a first task within a first area defined by
3 a plurality of anchor points, the anchor points configured to transmit positional information to
4 the automaton;
5 generating first mapping information of the first area using the positional
6 information received from the anchor points, the first mapping information including
7 information on a location of a first obstacle provided within the first area;
8 thereafter, controlling the automaton to navigate and perform a second task
9 within the first area using the first mapping information; and
10 generating second mapping information if a second obstacle is encountered
11 while performing the second task.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 determining power available to the automaton, wherein the second mapping
3 information is generated according to the available power.

1 23. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 determining power available to the automaton;
3 calculating whether the power determined to be available is sufficient to
4 complete an initial task route obtained according to the first or second mapping information;
5 and
6 generating a substitute task route if the calculation indicates that the available
7 power is insufficient to perform the initial task route.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the substitute task route ends
2 proximate a power supply.